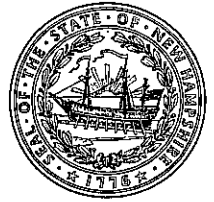




The State of New Hampshire
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES



Thomas S. Burack, Commissioner

February 10, 2009

The Honorable Tara Reardon, Chairman
Commerce and Consumer Affairs
Legislative Office Building, Room 302
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

Re: HB 607, establishing a pharmaceutical drug disposal program

Dear Chairman Reardon:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on HB 607, which would establish a pharmaceutical drug disposal program for New Hampshire managed by the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). The Department of Environmental Services (DES) supports in concept the establishment of a state-wide pharmaceutical drug disposal program. However, we also defer to the DHHS on the details of how the proposed program might work, the scope of the proposed program, and the resources required for program implementation by DHHS.

DES recognizes the need to ensure unused medicines do not contaminate New Hampshire's surface water or groundwater resources and the need to improve upon existing disposal practices. For this reason, we have recently developed a white paper concerning the management of unused medicine in New Hampshire and have just convened a stakeholder group to help us develop procedures for the disposal of unused medicine. We are optimistic that these efforts will lead to some long term improvements in disposal practices for residential pharmaceutical wastes in New Hampshire. However, the establishment of a state-wide residential pharmaceutical waste disposal program, if fully funded and designed to ensure effective implementation, would likely result in rapid statewide improvement in pharmaceutical drug disposal practices.

Again, thank you for this opportunity to comment on this bill. Please feel free to call me at 271-2958, or Brandon Kernen at 271-0660, if you have any questions or need additional information.

Very truly yours,

Michael Walls, Ass't. Comm.
for Thomas S. Burack
Commissioner

cc: Representative Harris